

Introduction for Tampere Day event in the City Hall ballroom

Tampere City Orchestra – Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra would also like to congratulate this year's recipients of the Tampere Award and medals. I would like to thank you for your extensive and long-term work in developing our city.

This year, the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra is celebrating its 90th anniversary, even though the history of the orchestra actually dates back 124 years all the way to 1896. Tampere Orchestra Association, founded at that time, held its concerts in this very hall where we find ourselves today, in the City Hall ballroom. From the very beginning, the orchestra was conducted by such greats of Finnish music as Robert Kajanus and Jean Sibelius. The first composition concert led by Sibelius himself was held in this hall in 1898, and the press wrote about the great popularity of the concert: "The room was full to the rafters and those that came in last had to return home empty-handed because they did not manage to get seats."

The Tampere City Orchestra played at the City Hall until 1960, and for the next thirty years concerts were held in the current ballroom of the University of Tampere, until 30 years ago when the orchestra found a new home at Tampere Hall.

For this occasion, we have put together a salon orchestra comprising musicians from the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra. Led by pianist Ville Hautakangas, they will take us on a journey through the kind of music that the orchestra played or could well have played here in the City Hall ballroom during the early years of the orchestra.

First, our journey will take us to the middle of a battle between the forces of darkness and light. We will start with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's overture from the opera "The Magic Flute". After that, the solos of the concert will also feature the music of Mozart.

Today, our soloist will be Juha Uusitalo, one of the internationally most well-known Finnish bass-baritones who incidentally also lives in Tampere. We meet him as a young nobleman serenading under a balcony and right after this, he will portray the servant of this nobleman telling us what a womaniser his young master really is. Both arias are from the opera "Don Giovanni".

After that, we will hear a segment consisting of Finnish solos. First, we will hear "To Evening" and "Row, Row, Duck" by Jean Sibelius. Then the Tampere Philharmonic Salon Orchestra will play stage music and a waltz from Pyotr Tchaikovsky's ballet "Swan Lake".

We will then move on to songs by Oskar Merikanto, the most well-known and most popular composer in Finnish homes at the beginning of the 20th century. His two songs are "To Life" and "At Sea".

The concert will end with "Blue Heaven" which was made popular in Finland by Olavi Virta and Harmony Sisters. We will hear the interpretation of Juha Uusitalo, the soloist for the evening.

The arrangements for the songs being played today are by Ville Hautakangas, our pianist and Musical Director.

Through our music, the Tampere Philharmonic Salon Orchestra would like to wish you all a Happy Tampere Day and to bring some light into these long autumn evenings.

**Programme**

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| W. A. Mozart | The Magic Flute Overture | 7:00 |
| W. A. Mozart | Two arias from the opera Don Giovanni | |
| | Deh vieni alla Finestra (Don Giovanni) | 2:30 |
| | Madamina (Leporello) | 5:30 |
| Jean Sibelius | Two solo songs | |
| | To Evening | 1:40 |
| | Row, Row, Duck | 1:30 |
| Pyotr Tchaikovsky | Parts of the ballet Swan Lake | |
| | Stage Music 1 | 3:00 |
| | Waltz Number 2 | 7:00 |
| Oskar Merikanto | Two solo songs | |
| | To Life | 2:30 |
| | At Sea | 4:00 |
| Josef Rixner | Blue Heaven Tango | 3:00 |
| Duration of music | | 38:00 |